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Message Text

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42
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5231
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT, US
SUBJ: MORE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CIA AGENTS IN ITALY

REF: ROME 00703

1. RUSH TO PUBLISH THE NAMES OF CIA AGENTS ATTACHED TO THIS EMBASSY HAS PICKED UP STEAM FOLLOWING WEEKEND LULL. ONLY PAPER TO COVER LA REPUBBLICA REVELATIONS OF JANUARY 16 (REFTEL) WAS COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY L'UNITA WHICH ON JANUARY 17 HAD BRIEF FOUR-LINE SUMMARY CONTAINING NO MENTION OF NAMES LISTED IN LA REPUBBLICA.

2. STAMPA SERA OF TURIN JANUARY 19 (CONTROLLED BY THE SAME INTERESTS--AGNELLI FAMILY--WHICH PUBLISHES DAILY LA STAMPA) CARRIED STORY IN WHICH IT CLAIMS TO HAVE AVAILABLE A LIST OF 18 NAMES OF CIA AGENTS WORKING IN ITALY ONLY FIVE OF WHICH HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN LA REPUBBLICA.
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HOWEVER STAMPA SERA SAID IT HAD DECIDED NOT TO PUBLISH

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THESE NAMES IN ORDER NOT TO ENDANGER THE LIVES OF THE PURPORTED AGENTS AND TO AVOID BECOMING AN INSTRUMENT IN A "SPY WAR" BETWEEN THE CIA AND THE KGB. THE ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY CARLO SARTORI, CLAIMS THERE WERE AT LEAST 50 CIA AGENTS IN ITALY WITH AT LEAST 30 MORE ADDED AFTER THE COMMUNIST GAINS IN THE JUNE 15 ELECTIONS. THE SAME STORY ESTIMATES KGB STRENGTH IN ITALY AS 90 AGENTS WITH ABOUT 1,000 INFORMERS. ANOTHER CHARGE IN THE SAME ARTICLE INVOLVES CIA ATTEMPTS TO SUBVERT TWO MAJOR ITALIAN DAILY NEWSPAPERS, ONE IN MILAN AND ANOTHER IN ROME (NO FURTHER IDENTIFICATION PROVIDED).

3. APPARENTLY THE MOST EXTENSIVE REVELATIONS ABOUT ALLEGED CIA WILL APPEAR IN THE ISSUE OF THE WEEKLY L'ESPRESSO DUE TO APPEAR ON THE NEWSTANDS JANUARY 21. (L'ESPRESSO HAS A 50 PERCENT INTEREST IN LA REPUBBLICA.) A PRE-PUBBLICATION SUMMARY OF THESE SURFACED IN THE PRESS JANUARY 20. JUDGING FROM THIS PRELIMINARY COVERAGE, L'ESPRESSO WILL NAME AT LEAST 30 INDIVIDUALS ALLEGEDLY WORKING AS CIA AGENTS EITHER IN THE EMBASSY OR AT AMCONSUL MILAN. FOR THE OFFICERS MENTIONED, THERE WILL BE DESCRIPTIVE DATA INCLUDING THEIR PAST CAREERS, ALLEGED PRESENT FUNCTIONS, AND SOME HOME ADDRESSES. L'ESPRESSO ARTICLE INVITES THE CIA CHIEF AT THE EMBASSY (WHO IS IDENTIFIED) TO PROVIDE, IF HE DESIRES, A LIST OF KGB AGENTS IN ITALY WHICH THE MAGAZINE WILL BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO PUBLISH. MOST NATIONAL PRESS JAN 20 COVER FORTHCOMING L'ESPRESSO REVELATIONS INCLUDING NAMES OF ABOUT 30 CIA AGENTS. VOLPE

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